

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 31 are pending in the Patent Application.

Claims 13 – 21 are allowed.

Claims 1, 8, 22, and 28 are rejected.

Claims 2 – 7, 9 – 12, 23 – 27, and 29 – 31 are objected to.

Applicants appreciate Examiner's allowance of Claims 13 – 21.

Examiner states that Claims 2 – 7, 9 – 12, 23 – 27, and 29 – 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 2 by incorporating the features of Claim 2 into independent Claim 1, forming newly presented Claim 32. Claim 32 should be in allowable condition.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 3 by incorporating the features of Claim 3 into independent Claim 1; there are no intervening claims. Consequently, Claim 1 should be in condition for allowance. Additionally, dependent Claims 4 – 8 depend (directly or indirectly) upon allowable Claim 1, and each reciting additional features thereto, should also be in allowable condition.

Claim 9 has been rewritten by incorporating the features of Claim 9 into independent Claim 1, forming newly presented Claim 33. Claim 33 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 has been rewritten by incorporating the features of Claim 10 into independent Claim 1, forming newly presented Claim 34. Claim 34 should be in allowable condition.

Claim 11 has been rewritten by incorporating the features of Claim 11 into independent Claim 1, forming newly presented Claim 35. Claim 35 should be allowable.

Claim 12 has been rewritten by incorporating the features of Claim 12 into independent Claim 1, forming newly presented Claim 36. Claim 36 should be allowable.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 23 by incorporating the features of Claim 23 into independent Claim 22, forming newly presented Claim 37. Claim 37 should be in allowable condition.

Claim 24 has been rewritten by incorporating the features of Claim 24 into independent Claim 22, forming newly presented Claim 38. Claim 38 should be in allowable condition.

Claim 25 has been rewritten by incorporating the features of Claim 25 into independent Claim 22; there are no intervening claims. Claim 22 should be in condition for allowance.

In addition, dependent Claims 26 – 28 depend (directly or indirectly) upon allowable Claim 22, and each reciting additional features thereto, should also be in condition for allowance.

Claim 29 has been rewritten by incorporating the features of Claim 29 into independent Claim 22, forming newly presented Claim 39. Claim 39 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 30 has been rewritten by incorporating the features of Claim 30 into independent Claim 22, forming newly presented Claim 40. Claim 40 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 31 has been rewritten by incorporating the features of Claim 31 into independent Claim 22, forming newly presented Claim 41. Claim 41 should be in condition for allowance.

Applicants request that Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, and newly presented Claims 32-41 be allowed and that the case pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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